

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

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1.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An image input device for picking up an image of one or more subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image of a subject and to output an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction switch adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit;

a mount table for laying a subject thereon, wherein said image pickup direction switch is adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit between a direction for picking up an image of the subject laid on said mount table and a direction for picking up an image of a subject not on said mount table;

an angle detection unit adapted to detect a change of an angle of the image pickup direction; and

a control unit adapted to automatically store an image signal in a storage unit according to a change of an angle of the image pickup direction detected by said angle detection unit,

wherein said control unit stores the image signal when the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person, and

wherein said control unit is adapted to cause the stored image signal to be output

when said image pickup unit is switched from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

15. (Previously Presented) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a fixed direction detection unit adapted to determine whether the image pickup direction is fixed.

16. (Previously Presented) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a driving unit adapted to drive the switching of the image pickup direction switched by said image pickup direction switch.

17. and 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage unit has at least two areas for storing an image signal, and wherein said image input device further comprises a memory control unit adapted to switch between said at least two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the change of angle detected by said angle detection unit.

20. (Previously Presented) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control unit is adapted to control output of the image signal such that the image signal is output repeatedly.

21. (Previously Presented) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein

said control unit is adapted to control output of the image signal such that the image signal is output selectively.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein the storage unit is adapted to store the image signal output from said image pickup unit when the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit is in the direction for picking up an image of the subject on said mount table, and

wherein said control unit is adapted to control, at an arbitrary timing, output of the stored image signal.

24.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An image input method for picking up an image of a subject by switching an image pickup direction and outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image of the subject, the image input method comprising the steps of:

switching the image pickup direction between a direction for picking up an image of a subject laid on a mount table and a direction for picking up an image of a subject not on the mount table;

detecting a change of an angle of the image pickup direction; and

automatically storing an image signal in a storage unit according to a change of an angle of the image pickup direction detected in said detecting step,

wherein, in said storing step, the image signal is stored when the image pickup direction of the image pickup unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document

to a direction for picking up an image of a person, and

wherein the stored image signal is output when the image pickup unit is switched  
from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

29. and 30. (Canceled)

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31. (Previously Presented) An image input method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of outputting an image signal, stored in said storing step, repeatedly.

32. (Previously Presented) An image input method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of outputting an image signal, stored in said storing step, selectively.

33.-38. (Canceled)

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